Pollution in Delhi

4600. PROF. O. P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 1000 tonnes of pollutants are exuded into the air every day in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether lead-free petrol (0.15 gm. of lead per litre) would be made available in all four major metropolitan cities this year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no attempt has been made to synchronise the arrival! of lead-free petrol with new engine designs vital for cars run on this petrol; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Petrol with a reduced lead content (0.15 grams per litre) can be made available in all the four major Metropolitan cities this year.

(c) No, Sir. Discussions have been held to synchronise the arrival of unleaded petrol with new engine designs.

(d) Does not arise.,

Pak decision to accept mediation on Kashmir issue

4601. Shri V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Indian Express' dated the T5th December, 1993 that Pakistan recently announced its decision to readily accept the offer of good offices by Teheran for the settlement of Kashmir issue; ,

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Gov-emment thereto; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Gov ernment in this regard ?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Govern ment have seen the news item in the 'Indian Express' dated 15-12-1993 on a reported statement by the Foreign Minis ter of Pakistan. ,

(b) and (c) Government are committed to resolving all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan peacefully and through bilateral negotiations under the Simla Agreement. This has been con-vyed to Pakistan and other countries on several occasions at various levels.

Acquisition of Tanks by Pak from Britain

4602. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF FAIRS be pleased to state : „

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Press report in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 19th December, 1993, Pakistan is acquiring tanks from Britain; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to counter the same

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Government are aware of press reports to this effect. ,

(b) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on national security and take necessary measures to ensure defence preparedness at all times.

Visit of European Ambassadors to Jammu and Kashmir

4603. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SHRI SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH ::
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA :
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-FAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that four Euro-

pean Ambassadors, representing Germany, Belgium, Greece and the European Community visited Jammu and Kashmir and discussed the Kashmir issue and its possible solutions with militant leaders of the so called All Party Hurryat Conference and JKLF, besides Government officials;

(b) how the visits and discussions were conceived, planned and organised and what was Government's hand therein ; and

(c) what was the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(to) Government had made an offer to resident Heads of Missions in New Delhi to organise a visit to Jammu and Kashmir. It was in pursuance of this offer that the visit of the Heads of Missions from Greece, Belgium, Germany and the European Union was organised from Feb 7 to 11, 1994. Government arranged the logistics. A programme of briefings and local visits was drawn up in consultation with the State authorities. The Heads of Missions utilised the visit to also meet a wide cross section of people in the State.

(c) The Heads of Missions were glad that the visit had been organised and appreciated India's policy of transparency. They were able to see at first hand the effect of terrorism on the Stats.

River water dispute between India and Bangladesh

4604. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the revival of campaign by Bangladesh against India, regarding river water dispute by taking up the issue with foreign diplomats in Dhaka;

(to) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) how Government think that Bangladesh's unusual move would affect the settlement of the issue between the two countries *1*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government's reaction to the reference made by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh at United Nations General Assembly is in the statement released by Ministry of External Affairs on October 8, 1993, a copy of which is attached, *(see* below).

Bangladesh's attempts to internationalise the issue of sharing of river waters are not acceptable to India since this is a bilateral issue. Such attempts are not helpful for our bilateral discussions on the subject. Nonetheless, Government of India remain committed to the resolution of the issue through a purposeful dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh.

Statement

Sub : Official spokesman, in response to a query on the Bangladesh P.M.'s reference to the bilateral issue of River Waters in her address to the UNGA.

In answer to a query on the Bangladesh Prime Minister's address to the UN General Assembly, the Official Spokesman said that India noted with considerable regret that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh thought it fit to raise the bilateral issue of River Waters in her statement at UN General Assembly on October 1, 1993. Her references to Farakka Barrage and related issues neither do justice to the documented facts nor refer to the understanding in May '93 between Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Bangladesh on the principles and framework of sollution. India remains committed to devising "an equitable, long-term and comprehensive arrangement" on water sharing with Bangladesh through bilateral discussions.

When Bangladesh confirms its interest in a meaningful dialogue on these principles and is able to overcome the temptation to play politics with the important River Waters issue, it should be possible to conclude a mutually acceptable Agreement. India continues to be ready for a